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GB 1293858
OCT 1972

1972

1293858 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET *This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale*

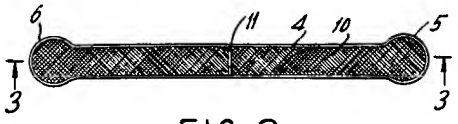

FIG. 2

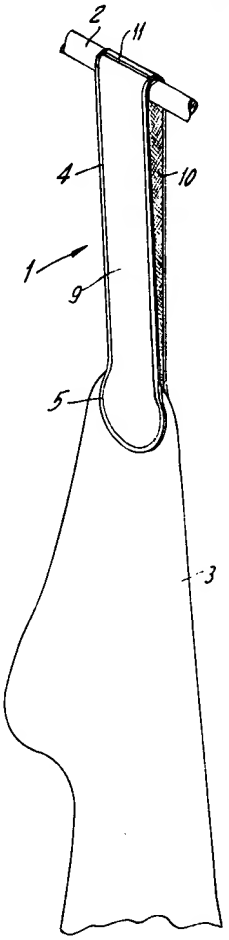

FIG. 1

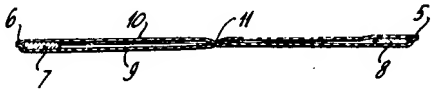

FIG. 3

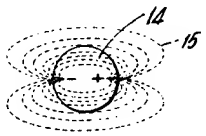

FIG. 4

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PATENT SPECIFICATION (11) 1293858

1293858

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

(21) Application No. 27701/70 (22) Filed 8 June 1970
(45) Complete Specification published 25 Oct. 1972
(51) International Classification F16B 2/02
(52) Index at acceptance E2A E19

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(54) MAGNETIC GARMENT SUPPORTING DEVICE

(71) We, HOZ-PIN CORPORATION, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, United States of America, and having its principal office at 225, west 34th Street, New York, New York 10001, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to a magnetic garment supporting device for use in drying relatively light-weight items of shear construction, for example, ladies' stockings, which are easily and frequently damaged by ordinary supporting means such as spring actuated or friction gripping clothes pegs.

The need for and utility of the device of the invention is perhaps most clearly dramatized by the familiar household scene of a bathroom with ladies' stockings and other delicate articles of clothing draped over the shower rod, towel racks, and other available protrusions.

It is an object of the invention to eliminate this situation by providing means to support the aforementioned items in an orderly and convenient manner.

It is a further object of the invention to support such items with pressures and surfaces which will not injure the fine fabric of which such items are often made.

An additional object of the invention is to provide an openable and flexible loop by which the retainer may be secured to a great variety of support means.

According to the present invention, there is provided a magnetic garment supporting device for use in drying light-weight easily damaged articles of clothing comprising a laminated flexible strap of two layers, a waterproof pocket formed in each end portion of said flexible strap between said layers, a magnet disposed in one of said pockets and magnetically attractable means disposed in the other of said pockets at the opposite end portion of the strap, so that said flexible strap can be draped over a supporting structure and the end portions thereof brought into adjacent relationship so that the magnetic forces of attraction generated by the magnet hold the end portions of the strap in said adjacent relationship whereby a garment may be held between the end portions of the strap.

The invention has the following advantages: it provides sufficient support for items of light weight, while providing a non-abrasive and sensitive touch so as not to harm delicate fabrics; it combines in a single item a retaining means and openable loop means by which the retaining means may be attached to a great variety of elements for support; said elements being either open-ended or closed-looped; and it provides a simplicity of structure which contributes to ease and economy of manufacture.

The above mentioned and other objects of this invention and the manner of attaining them will become more apparent and the invention itself will best be understood by reference to the following description of an embodiment of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, the description of which follows.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device of the invention as utilized to support a lady's stocking;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the inside surface of the device in the open position;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the device illustrated in Fig. 2 taken along line 3—3; and

Fig. 4 is a schematic illustration of a magnet utilized in the invention.

Referring to Fig. 1, a device 1 of the invention is illustrated as utilized to suspend a lady's stocking 3 from a shower rod 2. The device is comprised basically of a strap 4 having enlarged end portions 5 and 6. A magnet 7 is disposed within end portion 6 as will be described, and a ferrous plug 8, preferably of stainless steel, is disposed within end portion 5. The mounting illustrated in Fig. 1 is achieved by looping one end of the strap over the shower rod, then bringing

the end portions 5 and 6 together on opposite sides of the stocking 3. With the strap thus disposed, magnet 7 will attract plug 8 with sufficient force to retain a stocking 3 or other relatively light and thin garments therebetween.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the inside surface of the device of the invention. The figure illustrates the strap body 4 with enlarged part circular end portions 5 and 6. End portions 5 and 6 are enlarged so that magnet 7 and plug 8 when placed therein will not slide into the body of the strap. The strap is comprised of an outer cover 9 and an inner liner 10, each preferably made of vinyl material. It has been found advantageous to construct the outer cover 9 of vinyl sheet approximately ten thousandths of an inch thick, and to use an inner liner about six thousandths of an inch thick with a four to ten thousandths grain thereon.

The inner liner 10 is heat-sealed to the cover 9 around the peripheral edges thereof, and across the center of the strap forming a score 11 which promotes bending the strap in the center so that end portions 5 and 6 will naturally fall together when the device is utilized. The surface of liner 10 is scored or embossed with a fine grain, as above mentioned, which grain increases the friction between the device and the item supported when assembled as in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the device illustrated in Fig. 2. This figure illustrates the position of the magnet and plug within the strap. Fig. 3 illustrates that the end portions 5 and 6 of the outer cover 9 are shaped to accomodate respectively magnet 7 and plug 8. This is achieved by sizing the end portions 5 and 6 of cover 9 sufficiently large to permit their edges to be bent up and around magnet 7 and plug 8 respectively, prior to sealing to inner liner 10. The effect of this construction is to render the inner surface of the device substantially flat, eliminating protrusions which might tend to snag deliacte materials, and also to provide good mating contact between the magnet and the plug. Fig. 3 also illustrates the position and character of score 11. As can be seen, cover 9 is joined to inner line 10 at score 11; however, outer cover 9 is free to assume a partially curved contour between end portions 5 and 6 and score 11. This curved contour naturally results from the protrusions caused by magnet 7 and plug 8, and has the practical effect of rendering the portions of the strap exclusive of score 11 somewhat more rigid, which promotes bending at the score 11 and the consequent fullest possible contact between magnet 7 and plug 8 when end portions 5 and 6 are brought together.

The invention thus constructed has great utility in that the strap can be led through or around a great variety of supporting items of almost any size and shape; yet supports ladies' stockings and other items with such a sensitive touch that they may be pulled by the bottom from between the holding end portions 5 and 6 of the strap without fear of tearing or snagging. At least one practical advantage of this feature is that the user need not reach up to the holding device of the invention to release the item held thereby, and yet have no fear that the item will be injured when withdrawn therefrom.

Fig. 4 illustrates magnet 14 used in the invention. Magnet 14, found particularly advantageous is one having a ceramic composition, e.g., a ferrite. It is non-rusting and also can be magnetized at one face thereof with a field 15 illustrated in Fig. 4.

While the invention has been described in connection with one embodiment, it is to be clearly understood that this description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation to the scope of the invention as defined by the claims.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A magnetic garment supporting device for use in drying light-weight easily damaged articles of clothing comprising a laminated flexible strap of two layers, a water-proof pocket formed in each end portion of said flexible strap between said layers, a magnet disposed in one of said pockets and magnetically attractable means disposed in the other of said pockets at the opposite end portion of the strap, so that said flexible strap can be draped over a supporting structure and the end portions thereof brought into adjacent relationship, so that the magnetic forces of attraction generated by the magnet hold the end portions of the strap in said adjacent relationship whereby a garment may be held between the end portions of the strap.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein one of the layers of said strap has a grain on the exposed surface thereof to provide a gripping surface at the ends of the strap adjacent the magnet.

3. The device of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said strap is scored along a line across substantially the center of said strap to provide a location about which the strap has a tendency to bend symmetrically causing said magnet and said means to come together when the strap is so bent.

4. The device of any preceding claim, wherein said laminated strap is comprised of two layers which are sealed around the periphery of the strap and around the periphery of the pockets containing the said magnet and the said means.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein said two layers are sealed along a line across substantially the centre of said strap to pro-

vide a location about which the strap has a tendency to bend symmetrically.

6. A magnetic garment supporting device substantially as described herein with reference to the acompanying drawings.

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Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by the Courier Press, Leamington Spa, 1972.
Published by The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2A 1AY, from which copies may be obtained.